

By: Senator(s) Little, Dearing, Smith

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 569

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DR.
2 DAVID S. BLACKBURN OF NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI, UPON HIS RECEIPT OF
3 THE 2003 GOVERNOR'S EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS AWARD IN THE CATEGORY
4 OF OPERA AND MUSIC EDUCATION.

5 WHEREAS, Dr. David S. Blackburn, Professor of Voice and
6 Choral Music at Alcorn State University and founder of the Natchez
7 Opera Festival, is the recipient of the 2003 Governor's Excellence
8 in the Arts Award in the category of Opera and Music Education;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. David Blackburn has taught voice for 42 years,
11 with many of his students going on to perform in major opera
12 houses around the world, three of his students winning first place
13 in the Metropolitan Opera finals, and others becoming leading
14 voice professors in major American universities; and

15 WHEREAS, this year begins his 13th season as founder and
16 General Director of the nationally acclaimed Natchez Opera
17 Festival and listed as one of the top 20 events in the
18 Southeastern United States; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Blackburn received a Bachelor of Music Degree
20 from Westminster Choir College; Masters of Music from Indiana
21 University; and a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of
22 Iowa. Before moving to Natchez in 1989, he had vocal studios in
23 Philadelphia and New York and coached singers at the Curtis
24 Institute of Music and the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia.
25 He has served as head of the Graduated Voice Program at Baylor
26 University, Chairman of the Division of Fine and Applied Arts,
27 Chairman of the Music Department at McMurry University, and
28 Chairman of the Graduate Program of Church Music at Scarritt



29 College. He has received the rare honor of a Distinguished
30 Professor's Chair for outstanding leadership and administration.
31 Currently he is Professor of Voice and Choral Music at Alcorn
32 State University. He also has a distinguished background in
33 church music; and

34 WHEREAS, Dr. Blackburn often is asked to conduct vocal and
35 choral clinics and serve as judge in vocal competitions. He is a
36 composer and has been published by Chorister's Guild,
37 International, *Three Songs of Praise* for children's voices and
38 handbells, which proved to be a best seller; and

39 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the unique
40 musical talent of this citizen who has brought honor to his
41 community and to the State of Mississippi:

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
43 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
44 we do hereby commend and congratulate Dr. David S. Blackburn of
45 Natchez, Mississippi, upon his receipt of the 2003 Governor's
46 Excellence in the Arts Award in the category of Opera and Music
47 Education, and wish him and his family success in their future
48 endeavors.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
50 Dr. Blackburn at induction ceremonies on February 28, 2003, and be
51 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

